REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-7, 9-16 and 18 are amended, without prejudice. Claims 8 and 17 are canceled, without prejudice. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) allegedly as being anticipated by Hatori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,974). Applicants disagree.

Claim 1, recites in part, "An information providing apparatus comprising ...**focus setting means for setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by a frame, among the plurality of images displayed; and selection means for selecting an image set by the focus setting means**..." (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Hatori relied upon by the Examiner do not teach at least the above-recited feature of claim 1.

Hatori relates to displaying data in order of time on the basis of time stored in connection to the displayed data (column 2, lines 31-37). However, Hatori does not teach or suggest, for example, a focus setting means and a selection means, as instantly claimed. The present invention allows a user to select an image set by the focus setting means. Hatori does not allow a user to have such a selection option. Therefore, the instant claims are believed to be distinguishable from Hatori for at least the reasons stated above.

For reasons similar to those described above, claim 10 is also believed to be distinguishable from Hatori.

Claims 2 and 11 depend from one of claims 1 and 10 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable over Hatori for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, claims 2 and 11 are believed to be distinguishable over Hatori.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Hatori be withdrawn.

Claims 3-7 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hatori et al. in view of Oosterhout et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,371). Applicants disagree.

Claims 3-7 and 12-16 depend from one of claims 1 and 10 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable over Hatori for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner did not rely on Oosterhout to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Hatori. Therefore, claims 3-7 and 12-16 are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Hatori and Oosterhout.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3-7 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hatori et al. in view of Yeo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,837). Applicants disagree.

Although Applicants disagree, the cancellation of claims 8 and 17, without prejudice, renders the rejection moot. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hatori et al. Applicants disagree.

Claims 9 and 18 depend from one of claims 1 and 10 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable over Hatori for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, claims 9 and 18 are believed to be distinguishable over Hatori.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Respectfully submitted,

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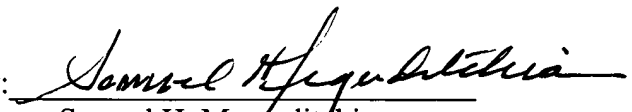
By: 

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